

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the above amendment, and of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9-22 are pending in this case. Claim 1 is amended herein and claims 3, 5, 7, and 8 are cancelled herein. Claims 20-22 are added herein.

The Examiner allowed claims 12-19.

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 5, 7, and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 is rewritten as newly added claim 20 and includes all the limitations of the base claim (claim 1). There were no intervening claims. Claim 5 is rewritten as newly added claim 21 and includes all the limitations of the base claim (claim 1). There were no intervening claims. Claim 7 is rewritten as newly added claim 22 and includes all the limitations of the base claim (claim 1). There were no intervening claims. Claim 8 is rewritten as amended claim 1 which includes all the limitations of the base claim (former claim 1). There were no intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon and claims 20-22 are allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cowely et al. (US/2002/0088476). This rejection is overcome by the amendments discussed above regarding objected claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 6, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cowely et al. (US/2002/0088476) in view of Geha et al.

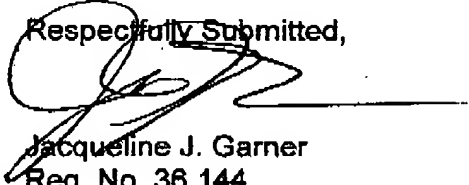
(US/5,968,851). This rejection is overcome by the amendments discussed above regarding objected claims.

The other references cited by the Examiner have been reviewed, but are not felt to come within the scope of the claims as amended.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9-22. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

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Respectfully Submitted,


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